

Borough of



Accrington

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.,

including the

Reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., Dip.Inst.P.C.

== 1949 ==

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28796822>

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.,

including the

Reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., Dip.Inst.P.C.

== 1949 ==

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1949-50.

THE MAYOR, Mr. ALDERMAN W. W. COCKER,
O.B.E., J.P., M.A., C.C. (ex-officio).

Chairman :

*ALDERMAN A. WADE.

Vice-Chairman :

*ALDERMAN J. S. HARGREAVES.

*ALDERMAN H. JOHNSON.

„ R. LANCASTER.

*COUNCILLOR J. E. K. BARNES.

„ G. BELL.

„ A. BROWN.

„ F. CAREFOOT.

* „ J. R. SHARPLES.

„ G. WALKER.

„ W. H. WALLER.

„ F. WILKINSON.

*Members of the Health Sub-Committee.

**STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND CLEANSING
DEPARTMENT.**

Medical Officer of Health:

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., Dip.Inst.P.C.

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector (Full-time Officer):

FRANK KENNIFORD, M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Full-time Officers):

HARRY HOULDSWORTH, M.R.San.I.

WILLIAM J. WOLSTENHOLME, A.R.San.I.
(Appointed 1st July, 1949).

KEITH FODEN, A.R.San.I.
(Appointed 1st July, 1949).

Infectious Diseases Officer, etc.:

HUBERT MULHALL.

Senior Foreman:

ERNEST LIVESEY.

CLERICAL STAFF:

Public Health Offices:

JOHN WALMSLEY.

Miss D. BURNS.

GORDON ECCLES.

Cleansing Depot:

WALTER OGDEN.

Refuse Disposal Works:

ROBERT McCONNELL.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Accrington.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Accrington.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1949.

The infant mortality rate at 49.08 was higher than for the country as a whole at 33.00. The fact that six of these deaths were from gastro-enteritis is a further unsatisfactory feature. It is to be hoped that next year will show a decided improvement in this matter.

Measles were more prevalent than in 1948, but whooping cough declined sharply; these are diseases which show well marked secular fluctuations of incidence. Respiratory infections were more prevalent than in 1948, and deaths from pneumonia, bronchitis, and other respiratory diseases all showed increases. It is remarkable therefore that no deaths appear to have resulted from measles or whooping cough.

22 cases of food poisoning were notified but no large outbreak came to notice. The importance of clean food handling has more than once been stressed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, notably in last year's report.

Early in the year, the Authority completed its 500th post war house, but it must not be supposed that housing does not still remain an important problem.

Many of the services formerly dealt with in this report are now administered by No. 5 Divisional Executive of Lancashire County Council, and my report on them is made to that Executive hence my Report to you is much more brief than former Reports have been. I would bring to your attention the improved facilities at the Ante-natal Clinic which is referred to in more detail in that Report; these have led to increased use of that clinic, and to the addition of a consultant session.

I wish to express my appreciation of the cordial co-operation of Mr. Hindle, Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff throughout the year, and to thank you, Mr. Mayor, and all members of the Council for your kind and earnest interest in all matters affecting Public Health.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

REGINALD C. WEBSTER.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|---|
| Ambulances | } | Provided by Lancashire County Council. |
| Home Nursing | | |
| Home Helps | | |
| Maternity & Child Welfare | | |
| School Medical Service | | |
| Tuberculosis (Home Visiting) | | |
| Welfare of Aged | | |
| Hospitals | } | Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board. |
| Venereal Diseases Treatment | | |
| Tuberculosis Treatment | | |
| Laboratory | | At local hospitals and Manchester Public Health Laboratory. |
| Public Analyst | - - - | Mr. S. E. Melling, F.R.I.C. |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Water Supply.—As has been repeatedly stated in previous Reports the present supply has reached the limits of its capacities, and if the Borough is to grow the problem of increasing the water supplies will call for serious attention.

Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of new houses built in 1949—

1. By Private Enterprise, 15.
2. By the Corporation, 136.

B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses on 31/12/49, 1,952.

2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings on 31/12/49, 650.

- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year. 1.
2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-three (33) new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 25 were respiratory cases and 8 non-respiratory.

The incidence of males to females infected was as follows:—

Respiratory 19 males, 6 females;
Non-Respiratory 7 males, 1 female.

Twenty-one (21) deaths were caused by this disease in 1949 and these were made up as follows:—

Respiratory 8 females, 11 males.
Non-Respiratory 1 female, 1 male.

The age groups into which these deaths fall can be seen on the statistical sheet on Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases on the active register at 31st December, 1949:—

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|-----|
| Respiratory | males 72, females 64 | = | 136 |
| Non-Respiratory | „ 48, „ 49 | = | 97 |

233

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 415 cases during the year 1949. There were 26 cases of Scarlet Fever, 328 cases of Measles, 22 cases of Pneumonia and 22 cases of Food Poisoning. The cases of Food Poisoning were scattered, no large outbreak occurred. A circular letter was sent to all Medical Practitioners recalling to notice that Food Poisoning is a notifiable disease.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 652 deaths registered in the Borough in 1949. Of these 325 were males and 327 females. The Death Rate for the year was 16.2, as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 11.7.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 236 of the registered deaths. Cancer filled second place with 93 deaths, and Intra-cranial diseases came third with 74 deaths.

It will be seen then that

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 36.19% | of deaths were due to Heart Diseases. |
| 14.26% | „ „ „ Cancerous Diseases. |
| 11.35% | „ „ „ Intra-cranial Lesions. |
| 3.22% | „ „ „ Tuberculosis. |

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 4,418.

Population (Census 1931), 42,991.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population, mid 1949, 40,210.

Number of inhabited houses (census 1931), 12,019 (1949, 14,393).

Rateable Value, £251.804.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,017.

The social conditions of the Borough are good. Chief industries are textile weaving, finishing, and printing, textile and general engineering, etc.

VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Live Births—Legitimate | 329 | 299 | 628 |
| Illegitimate | 13 | 11 | 24 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 342 | 310 | 652 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|
| Stillbirths | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year | 20 | 12 | 32 |
| Deaths (all ages) | 342 | 310 | 652 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | | | 16.2 |
| Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)..... | | | 20.0 |
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated population | | | 16.2 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Deaths from puerperal causes: | Death-rate per 1,000 total | |
| | Deaths. | (live and still) births. |
| Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis | Nil. | Nil. |
| Other maternal causes | 1 | 1.50 |
| | — | — |
| | 1 | 1.50 |
| | — | — |

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

| | |
|--|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 49.08 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..... | 49.52 |
| Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ | 41.66 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 93 |
| „ „ Measles (all ages) | 0 |
| „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0 |
| „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | 6 |
| „ „ Pulmonary tuberculosis (all ages) | 19 |
| „ „ Other forms of tuberculosis (all ages) | 2 |

**TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, INFANT
DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.**

| Year. | Births. | Deaths. | Infant Deaths. | Infant Mortality |
|-------|---------|---------|----------------|------------------|
| 1949 | 652 | 652 | 32 | 49.08 |
| 1948 | 690 | 548 | 23 | 33.33 |
| 1947 | 710 | 610 | 31 | 43.66 |
| 1946 | 638 | 617 | 25 | 39.18 |
| 1945 | 570 | 589 | 29 | 50.87 |

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|----|-------|
| 1944 | 567 | 564 | 23 | 40.56 |
| 1943 | 561 | 605 | 17 | 30.30 |
| 1942 | 508 | 556 | 20 | 39.37 |
| 1941 | 464 | 577 | 19 | 40.94 |
| 1940 | 387 | 681 | 23 | 59.43 |
| 1939 | 399 | 579 | 18 | 45.11 |

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS DURING 1949.

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|--|-------|---------|--------|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers | — | — | — |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | — | 1 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | 1 | — | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... | 11 | 8 | 19 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | — | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Measles | — | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis | — | — | — |
| Acute infective encephalitis | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f) | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| Cancer of Breast | — | 10 | 10 |
| Cancer of all other sites | 35 | 20 | 55 |
| Diabetes | — | 4 | 4 |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | 28 | 46 | 74 |
| Heart Disease | 107 | 129 | 236 |
| Other diseases of Circulatory System.. | 13 | 6 | 19 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bronchitis | 22 | 17 | 39 |
| Pneumonia | 13 | 9 | 22 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Diarrhoea, under 2 years | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Appendicitis | — | — | — |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Nephritis | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis..... | — | — | — |
| Other Maternal causes | — | 1 | 1 |
| Premature Birth | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Congenital malformations, birth injuries, etc. | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Suicide | 3 | — | 3 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Other violent causes | 8 | 11 | 19 |
| All other causes | 19 | 16 | 35 |
| | <hr/> 325 <hr/> | <hr/> 327 <hr/> | <hr/> 652 <hr/> |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949.

| | Total cases notified. |
|---|--------------------------|
| Smallpox | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 26 |
| Diphtheria (including membranous croup) | 3 |
| Food Poisoning | 22 |
| Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) | — |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Measles, excluding German Measles | 328 |
| Whooping cough | 7 |
| Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal) | 22 |
| Puerperal pyrexia | 1 |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | 2 |
| Acute poliomyelitis | 2 |
| Acute polio-encephalitis | — |
| Encephalitis lethargica | — |
| Dysentery | — |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum | — |
| Erysipelas | 2 |
| Malaria (contracted in this country) | — |
| (Abroad) | — |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 415 |
| <hr/> | |

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1949.

NEW CASES.

| Age Periods Years. | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
|-----------------------|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | — | 2 | — |
| 10 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 20 | — | — | — | — |
| 25 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — |
| 35 | 4 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 45 | 5 | 1 | 2 | — |
| 55 | 7 | 1 | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Totals | 19 | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| <hr/> | | | | |

DEATHS.

| Age Periods Years. | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
|-----------------------|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | — | — | — |
| 10 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | — | — | — | — |
| 20 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 25 | — | 2 | — | — |
| 35 | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| 45 | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| 55 | 4 | 2 | — | 1 |
| 65 and upwards | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Totals | 11 | 8 | 1 | 1 |

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

One fatal case came to notice as a result of an inquest and post-mortem; enquiries were made and bacteriological investigations carried out, but the source of infection could not be ascertained.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Total number of outbreaks | Nil. |
| (b) Number of cases | 22 |
| (c) Number of deaths | 1 |
| (d) Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks attributable to each | Unknown, except in fatal case where organism was salmonella aertrycke. |
| (e) Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food | Unknown. |

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

Medical examinations for the Corporation Superannuation Scheme, and as to fitness for work, are carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. An arrangement exists by which these may, alternatively, be delegated to his medical assistants on the County Council Divisional Medical Staff.

The following record is incomplete, as it includes only examinations carried out personally by the Medical Officer of Health, but it serves as an index of the work done.

| | |
|--|----|
| For Local Government Superannuation Act..... | 38 |
| For other purposes | 3 |

SANITARY INSPECTION AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1949.

Public Health and Cleansing Department,
Town Hall,
ACCRINGTON.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information my TWENTY-THIRD Annual Report on the work of the Borough's Non-Medical Health Services—Sanitary Inspectors' activities—for the calendar year 1949, and brief comment regarding Public Cleansing for the financial year which ended on the 31st March, 1950.

In addition to the presentation of statistical information, an endeavour has been made to provide useful comment, and careful perusal of the Report by members of the Council is invited.

A decision of the greatest importance was made during the year when the Council approved an establishment of four Sanitary Inspectors in addition to myself, thereby amending the previous establishment of three Additional Sanitary Inspectors. The decision received the consent of the Ministry of Health.

Perhaps it may not be generally realised that there are few combined Public Health and Cleansing Departments in the country which cover as wide a range of activities as does Accrington's, where practically all possible aspects of the environmental health services are dealt with.

The revised inspectorate is essential for the adequate prosecution of duties in a town of this size, and the Department's inspectoral and clerical establishment, detailed on page 4, represents the absolute minimum if the efficiency of the sanitary services is to be maintained.

A certain amount of new legislation, to which brief reference is made in the Report, has appeared during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board from upland sources (Reservoirs—Dean Clough, Mitchell's House, Burnley Road and Plantation Mill), and from underground sources (Altham Borehole and Rishton Colliery).

All public water supplies are passed through pressure filters and are chlorinated. Water from one reservoir (Mitchell's House) is soft moorland (peaty) water, having a low pH value, and is treated with lime and chalk after filtration to neutralise acidity. Water from the other sources is not liable to plumbo-solvency, and periodical examinations are carried out by the Water Board to ascertain pH value, a standard of 8.0 being sought.

The Board are always vigilant for contamination and exercise all due care in ensuring a safe and wholesome water supply. Routine samples are taken by the Board at monthly intervals from every source of supply, such samples being submitted for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Additional samples are taken whenever circumstances require this to be done, and special precautions were taken during the drought period.

The abnormally long spell of dry weather during the year caused grave concern as to the sufficiency of water supplies,

Standpipes were erected in various parts of the town but were not required, and trickle supplies to houses in certain districts were commenced, but supplies held out during the emergency. It was the policy of the Board to ensure that supplies to domestic consumers should be safeguarded, and this would have been at the expense of industrial consumers if the situation had made it necessary.

During the year ending 31st March, 1950, 4,333 yards of new mains were laid, such extensions including provision of mains to new housing estates, enlargement of existing mains to serve such estates and enlargement of other existing mains.

The number of houses in the Borough which do not receive a mains' supply but have private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc., is approximately 50, these premises being situated in the rural parts of the town. Extensive investigations were carried out on one of these private supplies following which two water samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and one sample for chemical analysis. The laboratory results of the samples indicated that the supply was unsatisfactory and the person responsible was accordingly informed as to the requisite steps to be taken.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of waste water closets was further reduced during the year, 135 having been converted to the fresh water flushed type.

The various types now in use in the Borough (including Huncoat) are as follow:—

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Fresh water closets | 8,006 |
| Waste water closets | 6,142 |
| Pail closets | 94 |

Prior to the war the Corporation was carrying out a scheme for the gradual conversion of waste water closets to the fresh water type throughout the Borough, contributions being made towards the cost of such conversions.

The scheme was suspended due to the imposition of the Treasury ban on capital expenditure by local authorities, and formal notices to convert were only served thenceforth in those cases where conversion was considered absolutely essential.

The substitution of fresh water flushed sanitary conveniences for the type flushed by waste water is the principal sanitary requirement of the town, in which connection it may be added that adequate flushing of waste water closets is more often than not conspicuous by its absence, thus rendering this type of contraption repulsive "in this modern age".

Since the end of the war the Council has made every endeavour to revert to former practice in respect of waste water closet conversions. In January, 1947, application for borrowing powers was made to the Minister of Health in order to accelerate the rate of such conversions in the Borough, but consent could not then be given in view of the acute shortage of building labour and materials.

Towards the end of the year under review the Council made a further application for loan sanction, and on this occasion Ministerial approval was received, thereby permitting the resumption, even though on a limited scale only, of its progressive policy concerning this type of work.

HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The following Table gives a summarised list of nuisances and housing defects discovered in dwelling-houses during the year and dealt with by the service of notices,

| | Number found defective, insanitary or missing |
|---|--|
| Internal. | |
| Window frames, etc. | 100 |
| Doors, door-casings, etc. | 50 |
| Skirting boards | 5 |
| Boarded floors | 18 |
| Flagged floors | 7 |
| Handrails | 2 |
| Stairs | 2 |
| Fireplaces and ranges | 24 |
| Ceiling and wall plaster | 127 |
| Dampness | 89 |
| Insufficient light or ventilation | 6 |
| Electrical fittings | 1 |
| Water fittings | 3 |
| Lavatory basins and baths | 1 |
| Sinks and waste pipes | 31 |
| Chimney flues | 10 |
| Water in cellars | 1 |
| External. | |
| Dustbins and lids | 319 |
| Bin-shed doors | 1 |
| Gullies | 6 |
| Fresh water closets and fittings | 18 |
| Waste water closets and trough closets... | 14 |
| W.C. and coal store structures | 48 |
| Drains | 40 |
| Yard surfaces | 9 |
| Chimney stacks and pots | 1 |
| Eaves gutters | 29 |
| Rain water pipes | 30 |
| Roofs | 12 |
| Yard walls and external brickwork | 21 |
| Pointing or cement rendering | 27 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 1,052 |

In addition, blockages were removed from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,748 premises.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

| | Temporary Houses. | Permanent Houses. |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) By the local authority | Nil. | 136 |
| (b) By other local authorities | Nil. | Nil. |
| (c) By other bodies or persons | Nil | 15 |

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

| | |
|---|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 171 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 355 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932... | 1 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 23 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil. |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 171 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers | 102 |
|---|-----|

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

| | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) by owners | 1 |
| (b) by local authority in default of owners..... | Nil. |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners Nil.

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV—Overcrowding:—

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... | } No information under this head. |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... | |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | |

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil.

NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice:—

1949.

Intimation (preliminary) 370

Statutory 25

 395

HOUSING—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

At the risk of repeating what has been written in former Reports, one feels it necessary to again refer to this subject.

The housing shortage in the town continues, the extent being evident from the fact that, at the end of the year, there were 1,952 applicants for Corporation houses, of whom 650 were living in lodgings. The majority of these would require a two-bedroomed house, and it may be added that the erection of dwellings for aged persons should ultimately release a certain number of larger houses for families who need them.

It is axiomatic to say that the difficulties which have been encountered by those who have married during recent years have been accentuated by the post-war inflation in property values and the progressive scarcity of rented houses. Many such houses which become vacant are not re-let but are put up for sale, the most important reason for this being the high cost of fulfilling a landlord's obligation to carry out repairs, as compared with the inflated prices which property will realise on sale.

Statistics are not now available for determining the extent of overcrowding in the town, but there is no reason to assume that this is greater than in other industrial towns. An assessment of the degree of overcrowding could only be made by means of a complete survey of the district, such as was carried out Nationally in 1936.

Although only one case of overcrowding by legal standards was reported during the year, it can be inferred from the number of applicants for Corporation houses that some degree of overcrowding based on moral standards does exist. A considerable proportion of houses in the town are of the four-roomed type, where, although the number of occupants is below the "permitted number" under the Housing Acts, the sexes may be distributed in the available rooms only in such a manner as to cause inconvenience or even strain to the household, especially if two families occupy one house. In computing the permitted number of occupants for a house by legal standards, the living rooms are taken into consideration as well as the bedrooms.

Shortages of building labour and materials continue to impede a reversal to the pre-war scale of re-conditioning work to properties, but a slight change in the position is becoming apparent due to the oft-quoted "shortage of money", which tends to reduce the amount of unessential work undertaken. The major obstacle, however, is the relationship between ever-increasing repair costs and fixed rents.

An addition to housing legislation has been made during the year by the appearance of the Housing Act, 1949, which is referred to as a stage in the housing programme. This Act removes limitations in the former Housing Acts on the powers of local authorities by the deletion of many references to "the working classes". It also enables local authorities to make "improvement grants" to private owners for the provision of dwellings by means of the conversion of houses or other buildings, or for the improvement of existing dwellings, subject to certain specified conditions.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are in the Borough 3 registered common lodging houses, their condition and conduct being satisfactory. 160 visits were paid.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

252 visits were paid in connection with cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of infected articles and premises. The following table gives details of disinfections carried out during the year.

DISINFECTIONS.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| | 1949. |
| Rooms of dwelling-houses | 181 |
| Books | 50 |
| Beds | 71 |
| Articles of Bedding | 471 |
| Articles of Clothing | 129 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 902 |
| | <hr/> |

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year 18 houses were disinfested. Satisfactory results were obtained by the use of "D.D.T." solution.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

It is an established fact that sewers constitute the main source of infestations arising in surface properties within the Borough, rats gaining access to premises chiefly by way of defective drains. Regular and systematic attacks upon the sewer rat have been proved to considerably assist in reducing surface infestations to a minimum. It has therefore become a feature of the Department's activities to carry out a biannual poison baiting of all sewers in the town. With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer and his staff two such maintenance treatments were carried out in September and March, 5,083 sewer manholes being baited during the periods. Systematic inspection and treatment of surface properties for rats and mice were continued throughout the year.

The methods of control adopted for the Borough were those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, from whom grant-aid was available to the extent of 50% of the approved net expenditure incurred.

68 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One gut scraper and four tripe dressers carry on scheduled offensive trades on 5 separate premises. The conduct of these trades was, on the whole, satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The number of Factories on the Register is as follows:—

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| (i) Factories with mechanical power | 228 |
| (ii) Factories without mechanical power | 72 |
| (iii) Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) | Nil |
| | <hr/> 300 <hr/> |

425 visits were paid in connection with the conduct of Factories. In 6 instances it was necessary to call the attention of occupiers or owners to sanitary defects or nuisances, in all cases the remedy being applied without resorting to formal action.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE.

16 visits were paid to premises where petroleum spirit and carbide are stored, five new installations for the storage of petroleum spirit and one new storage place for calcium carbide being approved during the year.

Licences were issued as follow:—

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| To store Petroleum Spirit | 70 |
| To store Carbide | 7 |
| To store Petroleum Mixtures ... | 1 |

An important development during the year in the administration of the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, was the establishment of a system of co-operation between the Department and the Lancashire County Fire Brigade.

By courtesy of the Chief Officer, Mr. H. Blackledge, it was arranged that, before a licence was granted, all premises where new petroleum storage installations were contemplated should be inspected jointly by a Sanitary Inspector and the District Fire Prevention Officer. It is hoped that before long all existing installations in the town will be similarly inspected with a view to improving methods of storage in accordance with modern conceptions.

As a Public Health Department we are naturally concerned in the prevention of personal injury due to faulty storage of petroleum spirit, and, as this is also one of the objectives of the County Fire Brigade, it is felt that our mutual co-operation will be beneficial to licensees in the town and to the public generally.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

There were no cases of contagious diseases of animals reported during the year, and no notices or licences were issued by the Department. 32 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with movement licences, disinfection notices, etc.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Shown below is a Return of all samples of food and drugs analysed by the Public Analyst under the provisions of the Act during the year.

272 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the sampling of food and drugs.

| Article of food or drug | Number analysed | Number adulterated or non-standard. | Percentage adulterated or non-standard. |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Milk | 78 | 6 | 7.7 |
| Sausages | 14 | 10 | 71.4 |
| Potted Meat | 1 | — | — |
| Brawn | 1 | — | — |
| Meat Paste | 1 | — | — |
| Pressed Beef | 1 | — | — |
| Braised Liver | 1 | — | — |
| Luncheon Meat | 1 | — | — |
| Salmon Paste | 1 | — | — |
| Sandwich Spread | 1 | — | — |
| Savoury Paste | 1 | — | — |
| Jellied Hare | 1 | — | — |
| Fish Dressing | 1 | — | — |
| Gelatine | 1 | — | — |
| Dessert Gelatine | 1 | — | — |
| Pastry Mix | 1 | — | — |
| Ground Rice | 1 | — | — |
| Cinnamon Lozenges | 1 | — | — |
| Custard Powder | 3 | — | — |
| Lime Cordial | 1 | — | — |
| Baking Powder | 1 | — | — |
| Stomach Powder | 1 | — | — |
| Tomato Sauce | 3 | — | — |
| Fizz Dips | 1 | — | — |
| Gravy Browning | 1 | — | — |
| “All Fours” | | | |
| Cough Mixture | 1 | — | — |
| Malt Vinegar | 1 | — | — |
| Salad Cream | 1 | — | — |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Orange Juice | 1 | — | — |
| Cake Mixture | 1 | — | — |
| Fruitarian Luncheon | 1 | — | — |
| Dried Sage | 1 | — | — |
| White Pepper | 1 | — | — |
| Natural Jellying Substance | 1 | — | — |
| Glucose Tablets | 1 | — | — |
| Glycerine | 1 | — | — |
| Liquid Paraffin | 1 | — | — |
| | <hr/> 131 | <hr/> 16 | <hr/> 12.2 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

The samples of milk which were found to be below standard were obtained from two retailers. In one case a formal sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 6.6% and a further sample showed a deficiency of 18.3%. The particular farm was visited by Sanitary Inspectors who were present during milking operations and took further samples. The three "appeal to cow" samples thus procured were certified deficient in milk fat to the extent of 23.3%, 8.3% and 16.6% respectively, the Public Analyst stating that, although legally genuine, the milk was of "wretched quality".

The Town Clerk informed the farmer that the Council were extremely concerned at these adverse reports upon the milk samples and warned him of the very poor quality thereof.

In the case of the second retailer a formal sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 6.6%, and further milk samples obtained from the same person were certified to be genuine.

The ten samples of sausages which were found to be below standard were procured from five different vendors, details of the action taken being described below.

1. Vendor A.

One informal sample of sausages was certified deficient in meat content to the extent of 26%, a subsequent formal sample revealing a deficiency of 14%. The Town Clerk informed the vendor that the Council were extremely concerned at these adverse reports and warned him of the poor quality of the sausages manufactured and sold by him.

2. Vendor B.

One informal sample of sausages was certified deficient in meat content to the extent of 38%, subsequent formal samples revealing deficiencies of 30% and 36% respectively. The vendor was prosecuted, a fine of £5 being imposed.

3. Vendor C.

One informal sample of sausages was certified deficient in meat content to the extent of 15%, a subsequent formal sample revealing a deficiency of 18%. The vendor was prosecuted, a fine of £7/10/0d. being imposed.

4. Vendor D.

One informal sample of sausages was certified deficient in meat content to the extent of 22%, a subsequent formal sample revealing a deficiency of 38%. The vendor was prosecuted, a fine of £10 being imposed.

5. Vendor E.

One informal sample of sausages was certified deficient in meat content to the extent of 12%, a subsequent formal sample being certified genuine.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS.

All bacteriological examinations of milk samples continue to be carried out by the Department of Pathology, Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.

During the year 28 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for the phosphatase, methylene blue and coliform tests. All the tests were satisfied except in the case of 3 samples, which failed the coliform test while satisfying the other tests.

46 samples of tuberculin tested (certified) milk were submitted to the methylene blue and coliform tests, all samples except 9 complying with the requisite standard. The 9 unsatisfactory samples were supplied by 4 different producers, and the tabular statement which follows indicates the results of all samples obtained during the year from these particular producers.

| Milk Producer. | Sample Number | Methylene Blue Test satisfactory. | Coliform Test satisfactory. | Standard Complied with. |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| A | 3 | No | Yes | No |
| | 17 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | 48 | No | No | No |
| | 55 | Yes | No | No |
| B | 27 | No | Yes | No |
| | 36 | No | No | No |
| | 38 | Yes | No | No |
| | 46 | Yes | No | No |
| | 53 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | 57 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | 68 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| C | 35 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | 43 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | 49 | No | No | No |
| | 54 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | 62 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| D | 6 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | 67 | Yes | No | No |

Appropriate action was taken in respect of the unsatisfactory samples.

Of the above-mentioned samples one each of pasteurised milk and tuberculin tested milk were also submitted to the biological test (guinea-pig inoculation) for tuberculosis, both samples being reported negative.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Profound changes were made during the year in the law relating to the production and distribution of milk. From 1st October, 1949, local authorities were divested of some of their former duties and at the same time many of their existing functions were supplemented.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The principal effect of this legislation was to transfer duties in connection with the supervision of milk production on farms from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The repealed regulations had never been considered satisfactory as they provided for compulsory registration of any premises and the subsequent remedying of defects after the expiry of 18 months' notice. It was therefore gratifying to note that the provisions had been amended so as to give the Ministry power to refuse or cancel registration if the regulations could not be complied with, having regard to conditions existing at premises.

Among the duties retained by local authorities is the control of milk distribution, including the registration of milk distributors. Also retained are the powers for prevention of infection of milk, and restriction of infected milk supplies, etc., whether at dairies or farms. Local authorities continue to be responsible for enforcing the requirements relating to hygienic handling of milk after it leaves the farm.

At the date of transfer of functions there were 44 dairy farms and 45 cowkeepers in the Borough, and 310 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors during the year, all dairy farms having been visited.

117 milk distributors were registered in accordance with the Regulations.

(b) **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.**

The special designations permitted for raw milk are (a) Tuberculin Tested, and (b) Accredited, those for heat-treated milk being principally (a) Pasteurised, and (b) Sterilised .

These Regulations, together with the principal Act, mark a new phase in the legislative control of milk supplies, and, when in full effect, will ensure what the public have a right to expect, namely, a safe milk supply either from tuberculosis-free herds or by adequate heat-treatment.

The use of the designation "Accredited" will now be permitted only until 1st October, 1954. The designation "Tuberculin Tested" can only be used after 1st October, 1957, if the milk in respect of which a licence is sought is from an Attested Herd.

For the time being the use of special designations will be voluntary, and the Regulations will only operate in their entirety when an area has been specified by the Minister of Food; only milk in respect of which a special designation has been licensed can then be sold in such area.

In other words, it is ultimately envisaged that in all districts which become specified areas the only milk which may be retailed will be either (a) tuberculin tested milk from attested herds, or (b) heat-treated milk. Producers who wish to retail milk will either have to produce tuberculin tested milk, or provide heat-treatment facilities.

The following licences were granted under the Regulations, viz:—

| | |
|--|----|
| Dealer's Licence (Sterilised) | 82 |
| „ „ (Pasteurised) | 43 |
| „ „ (Tuberculin Tested) | 24 |
| Supplementary Licence (Sterilised) | 1 |
| „ „ (Pasteurised) | 1 |
| „ „ (Tuberculin Tested) | 1 |
| Pasteuriser's Licence | 1 |

PUBLIC ABATTOIRS AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The introduction of centralised slaughtering about ten years ago resulted in the transfer of tenancy of the Public Abattoirs to the Ministry of Food on an annual rental basis, and the suspension of operations by the two privately-owned slaughter-houses in the Borough. During this period an efficient system of meat inspection has prevailed, and a harmonious relationship between the Ministry of Food and this Department has been maintained.

Shortly after the outbreak of war slaughtering ceased in the Abattoirs of adjoining districts, since when the Sanitary Inspectors of this Corporation have been responsible for the examination of all meat supplied from our Public Abattoirs to Accrington and District, including Haslingden, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Great Harwood, Rishton and Clayton-le-Moors, comprising a total population of 100,000.

In common with other Corporation establishments maintenance and improvement work to the structure of the Public Abattoirs has been necessarily reduced to a minimum during and since the war years, with the result that a certain amount of deterioration has occurred. An important difference, however, between the Abattoirs and other properties is that its future user is in some doubt. Whilst it is generally accepted that centralised slaughtering is likely to remain for some considerable time, the Ministry of Food are still unable to give very much guidance to local authorities as to a long term policy for the modernising of existing Abattoirs.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that a moderate programme of essential repairs and improvements should be undertaken during the next few years in order to arrest further structural decay and to bring the premises up to the high standard required of modern food establishments.

In this connection certain important improvements have been under consideration during recent years, and, at the time of writing this Report, have been completed. Such works have included the renewal of the entire electric wiring system, and the

provision of a new vertical boiler to replace the worn-out Cornish boiler, washing accommodation for employees, a galvanised steel pig-scalding-tank, and an additional refuse midden.

TABLE I.—**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

| | Cattle other than | | | Sheep and | |
|---|----------------------|-------|--------|--------------|------|
| | Cows | Cows | Calves | Lambs | Pigs |
| Number of animals slaughtered and inspected | 2252 | 2424 | 3171 | 17270 | 486 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | — | 9 | 23 | 25 | 4 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 775 | 753 | 10 | 1085 | 43 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 34.4% | 31.5% | 1.0% | 6.4% | 9.6% |
| | 32.9% | | | | |
| Tuberculosis only | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 9 | 111 | 23 | — | 3 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 243 | 1275 | — | — | 35 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | 11.2% | 57.3% | 0.7% | — | 7.8% |
| | 35.1% | | | | |

It will be observed from the foregoing table that, out of a total of 4,676 beasts slaughtered, 68.0% were affected with parasitic infection or disease of one type or another, or were unsound. 35.1% of all cattle were affected with tuberculosis, the incidence being naturally greatest among cows (57.3%). It must be emphasised, however, that only a fraction of these infected cows would have been secreting tuberculous milk prior to slaughter.

123 entire bovine carcasses were condemned on account of tuberculosis as against 83 during the previous year.

TABLE II.—**Conditions Necessitating Condemnation of Whole Carcasses and Organs.**

| Diseases | Cattle other than | | | Sheep and | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------|--------|--------------|------|
| | Cows | Cows | Calves | Lambs | Pigs |
| Tuberculosis | 9 | 114 | 23 | — | 3 |
| Septic Diseases | — | 2 | 17 | — | 2 |
| Fever | — | 3 | — | — | 1 |
| General Dropsy and Emaciation | — | 2 | — | 18 | 1 |
| General Bruising | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Moribundity | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| Uraemia | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Immaturity | — | — | 5 | — | — |
| Generalised Carcinomata | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Generalised Melanosis | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Caseous Lymphadenitis | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Total | 9 | 123 | 46 | 25 | 7 |

TABLE III.—Comparison of Condemned Meat and Offals.

| | Weights of Condemned Meat and Offals. | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 1949 | | 1948 | |
| | Meat lbs. | Offal lbs. | Meat lbs. | Offal lbs. |
| Tuberculosis | 86,148 | 37,397 | 62,401 | 28,580 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis | 13,592 | 51,285 | 10,834 | 61,726 |
| Total Home Killed | 99,740 | 88,682 | 73,235 | 90,306 |
| Add Imported | 1,326 | Nil. | 2,022 | Nil. |
| Total Weight Condemned | 101,066 | 88,682 | 75,257 | 90,306 |

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

692 visits were paid to miscellaneous food premises for the purpose of examination of food and inspection of premises. In no instance was it found necessary to resort to formal seizure of unsound food, all being surrendered voluntarily. The articles of food which were given up for destruction as being unfit for human consumption were as follow:—

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Miscellaneous Canned Foods | 2,207 tins |
| Bacon | 57 lbs. |
| Chicken | 20 „ |
| Fish | 1,274 „ |
| Butter | 63 „ |
| Cheese | 10 „ |
| Tripe | 476 „ |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Dripping | 112 ,, |
| Pressed Beef | 3 ,, |
| Pressed Pork | 7 ,, |
| Becona Cereal | 30 ,, |
| Spaghetti | 20 ,, |
| Figs | 59 ,, |
| Cocoanuts | 12 ,, |
| Peanuts | 112 ,, |
| Pickles | 40 jars |
| Mayonnaise | 13 ,, |
| Jam, etc. | 38 ,, |
| Sauce | 5 bottles |
| Meat Pies | 124 |

FOOD HYGIENE.

This aspect of the Department's duties continues to stimulate and hold the interest of all sections of the community. The apparent awakening of public conscience is heartily welcomed by public health officers, who have unremittingly striven to secure improvements in the sanitary conditions under which foodstuffs are prepared, distributed or consumed. Such endeavours have continued in spite of some degree of apathy or tolerance among the public generally, and also notwithstanding inadequate numbers of Sanitary Inspectors employed by local authorities.

Existing legislation, chiefly the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has never been considered sufficient or precise enough in itself to furnish a completely effective measure of control over the food trades. It has, therefore, been a significant and gratifying development of legislative control to receive during the year the newly

issued Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Food relative to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

The "Clean Food Byelaws", as they have become named, constitute a most useful supplement to existing law even though they may not be considered strong enough, being rather vague and elastic in many respects, with the consequent inevitable loopholes. Nevertheless, they are thought to be a definite advance in the right direction and the Council has decided to adopt them.

It is not anticipated that it will be necessary for Sanitary Inspectors to continually resort to Court action in order to administer the byelaws, especially in this town where the co-operation of food traders can generally be relied upon. We hope that a correct appreciation of the necessity for the byelaws by all concerned, coupled with a modicum of common-sense and decency, will ensure the continued harmony between traders and public health officials.

Sanitary Inspectors will, however, not hesitate to rigidly enforce the byelaws, and the consumer public can assist by acquainting themselves with their contents, and also by exercising a little discrimination as to establishments patronised. With the recent disappearance of some rationing duties which have hampered the trader for the past decade, it should be possible for him to devote a little more time to thoughts of hygiene.

A distinction must be made between Campaigns and Guilds in the matter of securing cleanly practices in the food industry. The object of Clean Food Campaigns is the education, where necessary, of traders, employees and consumers alike in the cause and effect of unhygienic handling of foodstuffs, and in the improvement of sanitary surroundings and personal habits.

Clean Food Guilds, on the other hand, are associations of food handlers who have banded together in certain parts of the country to form guilds, with varying degrees of success. One of

their main objects has been the voluntary acceptance of higher standards than are required by law, such guilds having certain inherent disadvantages from a public health administration point of view.

The majority of existing guilds were formed before the publication of the Clean Food Byelaws in October, 1949, which, in conjunction with present legislation, set a reasonable standard, provided they are broadly interpreted and diligently applied. Experience in the operation of the byelaws will indicate the extent to which local members of the food industry are prepared to work with Sanitary Inspectors for the improvement of premises and personal habits.

With all the recent publicity relative to food hygiene there is now a golden opportunity for all concerned to demonstrate their sincerity in the matter of cleanliness, and the continued co-operation of those people who handle other people's food is solicited in order to maintain the good name of the town.

Certain exhaustive inquiries have been in progress since last year when a Manufactured Meat Products Working Party and a Catering Trade Working Party were established by the Minister of Food. The terms of reference of the Working Parties include the following, viz:—

- (a) to review the present trade practice and legal requirements for manufactured meat products;
- (b) to draw up, if considered desirable, agreed codes of practice for voluntary adoption by the traders concerned;
- (c) to consider whether new or amended requirements by way of statute or regulations are desirable;
- (d) to consider and report upon conditions in the catering trade.

At the same time the Minister also established an Inter-departmental Committee on Meat Inspection.

As these important Reports are expected to be published before long, it would appear premature to add to the variety of requirements existing in different localities, when the situation is being considered on a national basis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1949.

Section 50 of the above-mentioned Act imposes on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died in its area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body will be made otherwise than by the authority.

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1950, six burials were effected at a total cost to the Corporation of £44 0s. 4d., the deceased persons being four infants and two aged people.

The funeral arrangements in all cases were made by the Cemetery Registrar in collaboration with the Department.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ending 31st March, 1950.

REFUSE DEALT WITH.

| House and Shop Refuse | | Tons | cwts. | qrs. |
|---|------|-------|-------|------|
| Horses: Accrington | | 396 | 17 | 0 |
| Huncoat (to tips) | | 133 | 0 | 0 |
| Motors | | 8225 | 7 | 2 |
| Total of Domestic Refuse Yield... | | 8755 | 4 | 2 |
| Clinker from Schools, etc. | | | | |
| Horses: Accrington only | | 528 | 0 | 0 |
| Market Refuse | | | | |
| | Tons | cwts. | qrs. | |
| Horses | 167 | 17 | 0 | |
| Motors | 23 | 10 | 3 | |
| | | 191 | 7 | 3 |
| Fish and Trade Refuse from Shops | | | | |
| | Tons | cwts. | qrs. | |
| Horses | 370 | 3 | 3 | |
| Motors | 83 | 12 | 0 | |
| Miscellaneous | 21 | 4 | 0 | |
| | | 474 | 19 | 3 |
| Total weight of Refuse Collected. | 9949 | 12 | 0 | |
| Refuse taken to Tips | 1583 | 2 | 0 | |
| Refuse dealt with at Disposal Works... | 8366 | 10 | 0 | |

MISCELLANEOUS DATA.

| | 1949-50 | 1948-49 |
|--|---------|----------|
| 1. Total refuse collected (in tons) | 9,949.6 | 10,360.4 |
| 2. Population | 40,210 | 40,180 |
| 3. Weight (in cwts.) per 1,000 population per day | 13.56 | 14.13 |
| 4. *Method of Collection: — | | |
| Horse-drawn vehicles | 16.1% | 32.3% |
| Motor vehicles | 83.9% | 67.7% |
| 5. Method of disposal:— | | |
| Salvage, Incineration & Utilisation | 84.1% | 83.1% |
| Tipping | 15.9% | 16.9% |
| 6. Number of dry ashpits | Nil. | Nil. |
| 7. Number of dustbins | 14,615 | 14,447 |

*A comparison of the percentage tonnages collected by horse-drawn and motor vehicles illustrates the further progress made during the current year in the mechanisation of refuse collection services. A still greater displacement of horse-drawn transport will become evident during the year 1950-51.

**REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.
SALES.**

Year ended 31st March, 1950.

| | Tons | cwts. | qrs. | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|------|---|----|----|
| * { Waste Paper | 369 | 14 | 2 | | | |
| { Textiles | 23 | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Compressed Destructor Scrap.. | 174 | 4 | 3 | | | |
| Scrap Iron | 37 | 5 | 0 | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|------|----|---|------------------|
| Lime Mortar | 1104 | 1 | 3 | |
| Household Bones | 7 | 10 | 3 | |
| Boiled Swill | 948 | 14 | 0 | |
| Feeding Meal | 20 | 12 | 0 | |
| Fish Offal | 21 | 18 | 0 | |
| | | | | 6151 0 0 |
| Value of Steam sold to adjoining Electricity Undertaking | | | | 800 0 0 |
| | | | | <u>£6951 0 0</u> |

*The Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of waste paper and textiles, which was commenced on 1st April, 1948, was continued during the year under review. At the end of the year the sum of £299 1s. 0d. had been distributed amongst the Department's employees, as compared with £763 18s. 6d. during the year 1948-49.

This diminution of bonus payments was a direct result of the sharp decline in prices received for waste paper, etc., together with a consequent reduction in tonnages collected, and was reflected in the Department's annual revenue.

The receipts from sales during the year amounted to £6,951, as compared with £8,963 for the previous year. The primary cause of the disparity was the reduced income from waste paper, etc., and also from lime mortar, due, in the latter case, chiefly to the greater use of cement for building purposes.

REFUSE COLLECTION—DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT:

| | Spring Hill & Higher Antley | West and North | East and South | North, Peel Park & Huncoat | Centre |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Total emptyings | 134,284 | 122,704 | 124,711 | 133,676 | 83,412 |
| Total tonnage | 1,790.86 | 1,790.86 | 1,627.12 | 2,017.48 | 1,395.88 |
| Bins per man per hour | 15 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 10 |
| Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin) | lbs. 449 | lbs. 443 | lbs. 410 | lbs. 493 | lbs. 381 |
| Weight per bin (lbs.) | 29 | 32 | 21 | 33 | 37 |
| No. of bins for District..... | 3,030 | 2,970 | 2,931 | 3,267 | 2,320 |
| Frequency of emptyings * | 44 | 41 | 43 | 40 | 35 |

Note.—During the year the last of the horse-drawn vehicles engaged on domestic refuse collection in built-up areas was displaced by a motor vehicle, necessitating reorganisation of collection services. The fulfilment of the policy of complete mechanisation of such services has now been achieved, and it is anticipated that before long refuse collection in rural areas of the Borough will have been similarly mechanised.

*The frequencies shown are only approximate owing to the re-organisation of districts which occurred during the year.

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

| Vehicle | Purchased | Actual hours worked | Repairs | Cleaning | % Hours Running | Hours Holidays | Hours rained off, etc. |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| S. and D. TE 9339 | September 1929 | 991½ | x1327 | 19 | 42.4 | 94½ | 96½ |
| Dennis 1 | September 1935 | 1856 | x414½ | 44 | 80.1 | 66½ | 116½ |
| ATC 439 | November 1936 | 2273 | 14½ | 49 | 97.2 | 114½ | 21½ |
| Dennis 2 | November 1939 | 2346½ | 39½ | 51 | 96.2 | 113½ | 29½ |
| ETE 269 | November 1945 | 2276½ | 7½ | 49 | 97.5 | 160½ | 12½ |
| Dennis 4 | May 1948 | 2321½ | — | 49 | 97.9 | 106½ | 11½ |
| FTJ 18 | January 1944 | 2305½ | 42½ | 50 | 96.1 | 66½ | 7½ |
| Dennis 5 | September 1948 | 2169½ | — | 46 | 97.9 | 150½ | 12½ |
| Karrier 1 | August 1949 | 1534 | — | 31 | 98.0 | 38 | 10½ |
| KTF 954 | | | | | | | |
| Total | | 18076½ | 1846 | 387 | 89.1 | 920 | 316½ |

xComplete overhaul and reconditioning.

QUANTITATIVE (SEASONAL) REFUSE ANALYSIS.

| | 1949-50 | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Summer | | Winter | |
| | Weight | % | Weight | % |
| | lbs. | | lbs. | |
| Weight of one cubic yard..... | 600 | 100.0 | 766 | 100.0 |
| Fine dust minus 5/16" | 249 | 41.5 | 366 | 47.8 |
| Fuel cinder 5/16" to 3/4"..... | 74 | 12.3 | 141 | 18.4 |
| Fuel cinder over 3/4" | 59 | 9.8 | 89 | 11.6 |
| Organic matter | 25 | 4.2 | 14 | 1.9 |
| Paper | 42 | 7.0 | 25 | 3.3 |
| Metal | 28 | 4.7 | 26 | 3.4 |
| Rags | 15 | 2.5 | 20 | 2.6 |
| Glass | 44 | 7.3 | 25 | 3.3 |
| Bone | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.1 |
| Unclassified combustible | 37 | 6.2 | 49 | 6.3 |
| Unclassified incombustible | 25 | 4.2 | 10 | 1.3 |
| Average weight per bin | 26 | | 39 | |

CLEANSING SERVICE.

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1950.

| Item | Particulars | Refuse Collection excluding Nightsoil Removal | Refuse Disposal | Street Cleansing including Gully Cleansing, Street Sweeping, Snow Removal, etc. |
|------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| A | Gross Expenditure | 14,248 | 13,071 | 8,374 |
| B | Gross Income | 1,171 | 7,835 | 1,938 |
| C | Net Cost..... | 13,077 | 5,236 | 6,436 |
| D | net cost per 1,000 houses or premises | 909 | 364 | 447 |
| E | Net cost per 1,000 population | 325 | 130 | 160 |
| F | Net cost; equivalent rate in the £..... | 1. 0.86d. | 5.15d. | 6.33d. |
| G | Percentage of F to total rates in the £ | 5.71 % | 2.29 % | 2.81 % |

A few last words of appreciation will not be out of place. The Department offers thanks to the Mayor and every member of the Town Council, not forgetting the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Health and Cleansing Committee, for encouragement and support throughout the past twelve months. Our thanks are also due to the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer and other colleague Officials, and their staffs, for co-operation and assistance. To Dr. Webster, Medical Officer of Health, for his wise leadership and willing assistance at all times. Last, but by no means least of all, to a very capable and loyal staff and body of employees for services well and truly rendered.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. A. HINDLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

